

309 Yoakum Pkwy #601
Alexandria, VA 22304
Christmas Day, 1985

Dear Mom and Dad,

We are enjoying our quiet holiday at home. Actually, yesterday was a holiday for me too but poor Vickie had to go to work. The happy ending is that she got to come home early. It was sunny and mild yesterday morning when I went down to Old Town for a 20 mile run. The tidal basin had ice in it and was a pretty sight glimmering in the sun. After my run I went grocery shopping for the next few days. Last night we listened to a Christmas Carol and other programs on the radio. We fixed fish for dinner and afterward had vintage port with stilton cheese, apple, and walnut.

Today started out cloudy but the sky is clearing under the influence of a strong north wind that is bringing the temperature down. It is supposed to be 10° by tomorrow morning. We had a very unusual brunch for us: pancakes with maple syrup and even a fried egg! Later on we will roast Cornish game hens that are currently marinating in apple cider. We go back to work tomorrow but have reservations at "Le Lion d'Or" our traditional French restaurant dinner spot for celebration of our anniversary and Vickie's birthday.

The dinner party went very well. So many items which people admire came from you! The candelabra is a perfect centerpiece and goes with "Aunt Stella's" tablecloth. And of course the many glassware items are ideal for drinking and serving snacks. Vickie

did a great job in planning, shopping, and preparing this dinner which didn't seem like so much work as before.

We enjoyed talking to Mary the other day and hope your respective holiday dinners go smoothly. Thanks again for the pillows which were also much admired. Now I will let Vickie write a letter to her folks while I sip on another glass of port.

Love,

Jim & Vickie

P.S.

I've enclosed a letter we got from Caroline which you & Mary might enjoy.